

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application (material to be inserted in amended claims is in underline, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~).

1. (Currently Amended) A sock comprising a body, the body comprising an external surface and an internal surface, wherein at least a substantial portion of the internal surface is adapted to contact a wearer when the sock is worn by a user, the sock further comprising first and second ~~openings~~slits extending through the body of the sock from the external surface to the internal surface, the openings being sized sufficiently to allow a second sock to be threaded through the ~~openings~~slits and retained to the sock thereby, wherein the sock further comprises a swatch of material behind the ~~openings and attached to the internal surface of the sock~~slits and sized to extend behind a localized region of the internal surface of the body proximate the slits such that a wearer's leg is not visible through the ~~openings~~slits while the sock is being worn, and further wherein the swatch of material is attached to the internal surface of the sock and configured to contact the second sock when the second sock is threaded through the ~~openings~~slits.

2. (Currently Amended) The sock of claim 1 where the ~~openings~~slits are spaced apart parallel slits.

3. (Currently Amended) The sock of claim 1 wherein the body of the sock is formed from a material, and further wherein the swatch of material behind the openings~~slits~~ is formed from the same material.

4 - 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The sock of claim 1 where the ~~openings~~slits are spaced apart a distance of five inches or less.

11-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The sock of claim 1, wherein the body includes a leg portion, and further wherein the ~~openings~~slits extend through the leg portion of the body of the sock.

17. (Previously Presented) The sock of claim 2, wherein the body includes a leg portion, and further wherein the slits extend through the leg portion of the body of the sock.

18. (Currently Amended) The sock of claim 1, wherein the ~~openings~~slits ~~include~~are finished slits that are adapted not to unravel.

19. (Currently Amended) The sock of claim 18, wherein each slit includes a perimeter that is at least one of serged, ~~seamed~~seamed, bound, and sealed.

20. (Previously Presented) The sock of claim 18, wherein the body includes a leg portion, and further wherein the slits extend through the leg portion of the body of the sock.

21. (Currently Amended) The sock of claim 1, wherein the body is formed from fabric and the ~~openings~~slits are formed in the fabric.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The sock of claim ~~22~~1, wherein the swatch of material is a fabric swatch.

24. (Currently Amended) The sock of claim ~~22~~1, wherein the swatch of material is sewn to the body.

25. (Currently Amended) The sock of claim ~~22~~1, wherein the swatch of material is knit to the body.

26. (Currently Amended) The sock of claim ~~22~~1, wherein the swatch of material includes a perimeter, and further wherein the swatch of material is attached to the body of the sock along a portion of the perimeter of the swatch of material.

27. (Currently Amended) The sock of claim ~~22~~1, wherein the swatch of material defines, with the body of the sock, a channel through which the second sock may be inserted.

28. (Currently Amended) The sock of claim ~~22~~1, wherein the swatch of material includes a perimeter, and further wherein the swatch of material is attached to the body of the sock along the entire perimeter of the swatch of material.

29. (Cancelled)

30-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The sock of claim 29, wherein the ~~openings~~slits are spaced apart by a distance of five inches or less.

33. (Currently Amended) The sock of claim 29, wherein the ~~openings~~slits include finished slits that are adapted not to unravel.